

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 NIC-01 SCI-06 SAJ-01 EB-11 COME-00

DRC-01 /124 W

----- 117554

R 281527Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8344

INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB UNN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, YO

SUBJECT: YUGOSLAV OFFICIAL CORRECTS PRESS REPORTS ON
PRESIDENT OF SFRY PRESIDENCY

REF: BELGRADE 0389

1. SECRETARY OF LEGISLATIVE/LEGAL COMMITTEES OF FEDERAL ASSEMBLY, ZORAN MISKOVIC, TOLD EMBOFF JAN 28 THAT JAN 20 BORBA SUMMARY OF GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM TO TAKE EFFECT UPON ADOPTION OF NEW CONSTITUTION WAS AT BEST MISLEADING IN ITS STATEMENT THAT PRESIDENT OF LCY WILL ALSO BE PRESIDENT OF STATE PRESIDENCY. TITO WILL OF COURSE CONTINUE TO COMBINE TWO FUNCTIONS, MISKOVIC SAID, BUT NEW CONSTITUTION CARRIES FORWARD "SAME" PROVISIONS FOR ROTATION AMONG PRESIDENCY MEMBERS IN POST-TITO YUGOSLAVIA AS IN PRESENT CONSTITUTION. AFTER TITO, JOBS OF PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT WILL ROTATE ANNUALLY AMONG THE EIGHT MEMBERS CHOSEN BY THE REPUBLICS AND PPROVINCES (AND THERE WILL NEVER BE BOTH PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT AT SAME TIME FROM SAME REPUBLIC/PROVINCE). PARTY PRESIDENT AFTER TITO WILL BE MEMBER OF SFRY PRESIDENCY EX OFFICIO BUT WILL NOT

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BE ELIGIBLE FOR JOB OF PRESIDENT OF PRESIDENCY.

2. MISKOVIC THOUGHT MEMBERS OF NEW SFRY PRESIDENCY
WOULD BE CONFIRMED BY NEW SFRY ASSEMBLY BETWEEN MID-MAY
AND END OF MAY. HE SAID MID-FEBRUARY WAS "FIRM" AS TIME
WHEN NEW FEDERAL CONSTITUTION WOULD BE ADOPTED.

3. HE CONSIDERED IT "EMBARRASSING" THAT SEMI-OFFICIAL
BORBA (SAWPY ORGAN), OF ALL PAPERS, HAD NOT MADE IT
CLEAR THAT UNDER CONSTITUTION ONLY TITO WOULD COMBINE
FUNCTIONS OF PARTY CHIEF AND HEAD OF STATE PRESIDENCY.
COMMENT: SENSITIVITY HERE TO REFERENCES TO TITO'S
PASSING OR EVEN TO POST-TITO YUGOSLAVIA MAY EXPLAIN BORBA'S
MISLEADING COVERAGE OF NEW CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS.
JOHNSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSTITUTION, ELECTIONS, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT, EXECUTIVE BRANCH
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BELGRA00426
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BELGRADE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740113/aaaaalii.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BELGRADE 0389
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUL 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <03 JUL 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: YUGOSLAV OFFICIAL CORRECTS PRESS REPORTS ON PRESIDENT OF SFRY PRESIDENCY
TAGS: PGOV, YO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005